



What's New and What's News

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE LEGISLATURE & OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

November 2005

Welcome to the second edition of a newsletter dedicated to keeping the legislature and other governmental agencies informed of "What's New" in the Gambling Commission and "What's News."

New Commissioner Appointed

When the first edition of this newsletter was e-mailed to you last August, one Commissioner position was vacant.

We are pleased to announce that **Peggy Ann Bierbaum** has been appointed by Governor Gregoire as Commissioner. Commissioner Bierbaum attended her first meeting in September. She is an attorney and lives in Quilcene.

New Assistant Director for Licensing

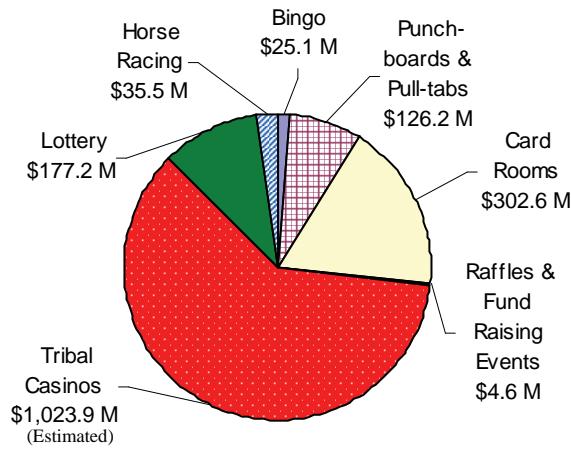


**David E. Trujillo, Assistant Director
Licensing Operations Division**
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I am Assistant Director of Licensing Operations and have been with the agency since 1992. I have worked in Field Operations, Tribal Gaming, Financial Investigations and Criminal Intelligence.

From time to time, I will be working with the Legislative Team. Feel free to contact me for answers to your licensing questions.

2005 Gambling Net Receipts



Net Receipts = wagers minus prizes

Visit our Website

Visit our website at www.wsgc.wa.gov to locate information about gambling in Washington State. Here's a small sample of what you'll find:

Statistics (1996 - present): Card Rooms and Charitable/Nonprofits ranked by gross receipts; Pie charts for all gambling in the state; Gambling taxes paid to local jurisdictions; and Statistics by county.

House-Banked Card Rooms: Name and city of each card room, date the license was approved, and pending applications for a license.

Newsletters (1999 - present): *Card Room Connection* Newsletter targets licensed card room employees and *Focus on Gambling* targets all other licensees.

Brochures: Home poker games; Internet gambling; Raffles; Promotions; Licensing; and Problem gambling.

Gambling Bans: Local jurisdictions that have ordinances with bans, moratoriums, grandfather and sunset clauses.

Public Commission Meetings: Meeting minutes dating back to 1993; Meeting agendas; Explanations of proposed rule changes; and New licenses.

New Legislative Team Member



**Terry Westhoff, Administrator
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Greetings from the newest Legislative Team member! I look forward to working with the legislature and other governmental agencies. As the agency's Business Operations Administrator, some of my responsibilities include budgeting, accounting, facilities, and contract management.

I have been with the agency since 1994 and have worked in regulatory and enforcement positions until my most recent appointment.

I am a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Fraud Examiner, and am currently working on my certification as a Certified Public Manager. I'm also very proud of my more than seven years of service in the U.S. Army.

Our Mission: Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest.

Public Opinion Survey

We have contracted with Washington State University's Social & Economic Sciences Research Center to conduct a public opinion survey about gambling. This is a phone survey of 500 residents throughout the state and is being conducted October and November 2005.

The survey will collect basic information on whether the person gambles and what types of activities they gamble on (card games, pull-tabs, etc).

The survey will also cover topics, such as underage gambling, Internet gambling, and any major concerns the public has about gambling. We hope the survey responses will be an additional resource the Commission can use when making future decisions.

We anticipate the survey results will be presented to the Commissioners at their February 9, 2006 meeting, which will be held at the Phoenix Inn in Olympia. Check our website under "Public Meetings" two weeks before the meeting for a meeting agenda.

Cheaters Caught

Recently, a card room operator notified us of suspicious activity at a card table. Our Special Agents investigated and found evidence on surveillance video that six licensed card room employees conspired to cheat using prearranged decks of cards. They attempted to cheat the card room out of \$12,000.

The Director summarily suspended the licenses of six employees involved in the cheating ring. We encourage voluntary compliance with our licensees and this is a good example of how licensees and our agents work together to ensure gambling is legal and honest.

Primary Legislative Contacts



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We're Streamlining Processes

Electronic Notification: We recently streamlined how card rooms and Tribal casinos notify us when licensed card room employees (dealers, pit supervisors, security) leave their job. In the past, employers faxed us a list of licensed employees that had left their job and we updated the agency database with the information from the fax.

Now employers log onto a secure website and update a screen. The information is electronically sent to the agency database, which automatically updates every 24 hours. This saves 15 to 20 hours of staff time each month.

Since June 2005, over 1,500 updates have been processed online and we have already received positive feedback.

Most Tribal casinos are now reporting online. We are training card room operators on the new system and anticipate most will be reporting online by the end of 2005.

Electronic Records: More than 20,000 licensing files representing all card room employees, gambling managers and representatives ("individual" licensees) were scanned into the agency database during the past year. These files are now available electronically to all staff.

Because staff no longer have to wait for a paper file to be routed to them for action, the turnaround time to renew "individual" licenses has been reduced from ten to five days. Furthermore, requests for information from these files are now processed electronically.

Spokane Tribe Compact Negotiations

State law delegates the responsibility of negotiating Tribal-State Gaming Compacts to the Director of our agency.

In October 2005, we reached a tentative agreement for a gaming compact with the Spokane Tribe. The draft proposal included a provision for the Spokane Tribe to share revenue with the state and contribute to problem gambling services.

However, Governor Gregoire asked that we negotiate further regarding provisions in the proposed compact that potentially:

- Changed the process of how gaming facilities are located on trust lands as set forth in federal laws;
- Increased the number of gaming machines; and
- Increased the number of machines that could be leased for the benefit of other tribes.

Negotiations with the Spokane Tribe continue.